



# 2008-2009 Delaware Migratory Game Bird Season Summary



<b><u>DUCKS</u></b>	<b>SEASON DATES</b>	<b>DAILY BAG LIMIT</b>	<b>POSSESSION LIMIT</b>
<b>DUCKS (REGULAR SEASON)</b>	Oct 24 – Nov 11 Nov 24 – Dec 6 Dec 19 – Jan 24	6	12
<b>SCAUP (HYBRID SEASON)</b> See inside page for details. Scaup count towards the duck bag limit	Oct 24 – Nov 11 Nov 24 – Dec 6 Dec 19 – Jan 1 <b>Jan 2 – Jan 24</b>	1   <b>2</b>	2   <b>4</b>
<b>SEPTEMBER TEAL</b> Limited to designated teal zone (SEE INSIDE) *any combination of blue-winged and/or green-winged teal	Sep 18 – Sep 27	4*	8
<b>YOUTH WATERFOWL HUNT</b> Youth must be age 10-15 (pending regulatory approval) Daily bag limits apply for ducks (including 2 scaup), mergansers, coots, moorhens, gallinules, Canada geese, snow geese, and brant.	Oct 4	6	12
<b>DAILY BAG LIMITS AND POSSESSION LIMITS</b> The daily limit of 6 ducks (excluding mergansers and coots) may include, in any combination, up to: 4 mallards, including no more than 2 hen mallards; 1 black duck; 1 pintail; 3 wood ducks; 2 redheads; 1 or 2 scaup (see details above); 6 teal; 6 shovelers; 6 gadwall; 6 wigeon; 6 goldeneye; 6 ring-necked ducks; 6 bufflehead; 6 ruddy ducks; 1 mottled duck; 1 fulvous whistling-duck; 4 scoters; 6 eiders; 6 long-tailed ducks. The possession limit is 2 times the daily limit. <b><u>The seasons on canvasback and harlequin ducks are closed.</u></b>			
<b>COOTS</b>	Same as Duck Season	15	30
<b>MERGANSERS*</b>	Same as Duck Season	5	10
*Daily bag limit may include no more than 2 hooded mergansers (4 in possession)			
<b><u>GEESE AND BRANT</u></b>			
<b>CANADA GEESE (RESIDENT)</b>	Sep 1 – Sep 25	15	30
<b>CANADA GEESE (MIGRATORY)</b> Including White-fronted geese	Nov 24 – Dec 6 Dec 19 – Jan 26	2	4
<b>BRANT</b>	Nov 24 – Jan 31	3	6
<b>SNOW GEESE (STATEWIDE)</b> Including Ross' geese	Oct 13 – Nov 13 Nov 24 – Jan 24 Jan 26 – Mar 9*	15	No Limit
<b>SNOW GEESE (BOMBAY HOOK)**</b>	Oct 13 – Jan 23 Feb 4 – Mar 6	15	No Limit
*Hunting ONLY allowed Mon., Wed., Fri., and Sat. during this split			
**Refuge open Mon., Wed., and Fri. with authorization of refuge manager.			

## **Changes for the 2008-2009 Season:**

**Delaware's September Resident Canada Goose Season has been extended by an extra ten days and will run from September 1-25<sup>th</sup>.** This extension is a three year, experimental season modification to increase harvest of resident geese while minimizing take of migratory AP Canada Geese. Shooting hours are ½ hour before sunrise to sunset.

**Shooting hours for the September Teal Season have been changed to ½ hour before sunrise to sunset.** Teal may only be harvested within the established teal zone during this special season (See Map on next page). Resident Canada geese may be harvested within the teal zone when these two seasons overlap.

**The daily bag limit for Mourning Doves has been increased from 12 to 15 birds per day.** This was done to synchronize the harvest packages for all states within the Eastern Management Unit.

**The daily bag limit for wood ducks has been increased from 2 to 3 birds per day.** This bag limit increase is a three year experiment to collect important harvest and survival data that will help waterfowl managers develop and finalize a new harvest strategy for wood ducks.

**The season for Atlantic Brant has been liberalized to a 60 day, 3-bird daily bag limit.**

**A restricted package has been adopted for Scaup.** A new harvest strategy designed to maximize harvest while conserving scaup populations has been adopted and under a new **60-day Hybrid season option**, there will be a 20-day consecutive period with a 2-bird daily bag limit, and the remaining 40 days will have a 1-bird daily bag limit (See Front Page For Dates).

**The season for Canvasback is closed.** The breeding population estimate for 2008 was 489,000, a 44% decrease from 2007.

**Hunters using state-built blinds on Wildlife Management Areas are required to pay a one-time, \$20 annual-use permit fee.** Permits can be purchased at license agent locations or from the Division of Fish and Wildlife at 89 Kings Hwy, Dover, DE. **PERMITS WILL NOT BE SOLD AT LOTTERY STATIONS!**

### **HARVEST INFORMATION PROGRAM – H.I.P**

If you hunt migratory birds in Delaware this season **YOU MUST HAVE A H.I.P. PERMIT**. To obtain this free permit, you may register by phone, toll free at 1-877-DELAHIP, or online at **<http://www.dehip.com>**

### **AVIAN INFLUENZA WHAT DELAWARE WATERFOWL HUNTERS SHOULD KNOW**

Since 2006, Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) staff have sampled over 4200 waterfowl and shorebirds in Delaware for Avian Influenza (AI), an infectious bird disease more commonly called 'bird flu'. To date, the highly pathogenic strain of this disease has not shown up in North America and no cases of human infection have been reported from handling live, wild birds or hunter-killed birds. Hunters should be aware of and educated about AI, but not overly concerned about it at present. DFW personnel will again be conducting field examinations of hunter-killed birds during this year's waterfowl season. Hunters will be asked for permission to examine their harvested birds. The bird will then be returned to the hunter for consumption or mounting. Hunters are advised not to handle any obviously sick or dead birds found while hunting and to report any groups of sick or dead birds to DFW at (302) 739-9912.

**TO REPORT BANDED BIRDS CALL 1-800-327-BAND OR  
VISIT: [www.reportband.gov](http://www.reportband.gov)**

## **\*\*NOTICE HUNTERS\*\***

THE PRINTED VERSION OF THE 2008 HUNTING GUIDE HAS **INCORRECT** SUNRISE AND SUNSET TIMES FOR OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER. THE CORRECT TIMES ARE LISTED HERE (SEE CHART, ON BACK) AND CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 10 IN THE ONLINE VERSION OF THE GUIDE AT [WWW.FW.DELAWARE.GOV](http://WWW.FW.DELAWARE.GOV)

### **Waterfowl Forecast**

#### **DUCKS**

The outlook for the 2008-2009 duck season is fairly good. Overall breeding habitat conditions were mixed. Drought conditions in the Prairie Pothole Region resulted in a 37% decrease in the number of ponds available to ducks; however, record precipitation in eastern Canada and the US provided good habitat conditions. Breeding populations for most duck species were slightly below last year's estimates but still generally above the 1955-2007 long-term average, with the notable exceptions of northern pintail, scaup and canvasback. The fall flight is predicted to be similar to that of 2007.

#### **GEESE AND BRANT**

Preliminary data suggest spring weather conditions were milder and Atlantic Population (AP) Canada geese responded by beginning nesting nearly three weeks earlier than last year. Though the total 2008 population estimate was down 19% over 2007, the near record high number of observed single geese indicates high levels of nesting effort and should result in good reproduction over the summer. Observed midwinter numbers of Atlantic Brant were 5% above the 2006-08 short-term average with indications that production would again be good this summer. The 2008 fall flight is expected to be similar to the one observed in 2007.

#### **SEPTEMBER TEAL ZONE**

Teal hunting during the September Teal Season is limited to a specific geographic area (See Map, right). The boundaries are coastal areas south of the C & D Canal to Lewes, and east of Routes 13, 113/113A, and 1.

Limited public lands are open. Call the Division of Fish and Wildlife at (302) 739-9912 for details



#### **SPECIAL SEA DUCK HUNTING AREA**

Scoters, eiders, and long-tailed ducks may be taken not less than 800 yards (1/2) mile seaward from the Delaware Bay shore or the Atlantic Ocean shore beginning at an east-west line between Port Mahon and the Elbow Cross Navigation Light, south to the Delaware-Maryland line.

**The shooting of crippled sea ducks from a motorboat under power will be permitted in the designated sea duck hunting area.**

#### **MUTE SWANS**

Mute swans are nonnative & not protected under State or U.S. Law. Hunters may harvest Mute swans and they will not count as part of the daily bag. Mute swans have an **ORANGE BILL WITH A BLACK FLESHY KNOB ON TOP AT THE FEATHER LINE**. Mute swans **DO NOT FEED IN FIELDS** and will only be encountered **IN WETLANDS**.

**NOTE!** Native **Tundra swans** are **protected**, have a **black bill**, and **feed in fields**.

SPECIES	SEASON DATES	DAILY LIMIT	POSSESSION LIMIT
<b>MOURNING DOVE</b>	Sept. 1 – Sept. 27 Oct. 20 – Nov. 1 Dec. 12 – Jan. 10	15	30      ½ HOUR BEFORE SUNRISE TO SUNSET
<b>KING &amp; CLAPPER RAILS</b> *singly or in combination of the two species	Sept. 5 – Nov. 13	10*	20
<b>SORA &amp; VIRGINIA RAILS</b> *singly or in combination of the two species	Sept. 5 – Nov. 13	25*	25
<b>WOODCOCK</b>	Nov. 24 – Dec. 13 Dec. 23 – Jan. 1	3	6
<b>COMMON SNIPE</b>	Nov. 24 – Dec. 13 Dec. 23 – Jan. 1	8	16
<b>MOORHENS &amp; GALLINULES</b>	Sept. 5 – Nov. 13	15	30
<b>CROWS</b> *Thurs., Fri., & Sat. only	June 26 – Mar. 28*	No Limit	No Limit
<b>SEADUCKS</b>	Sept. 23 – Jan. 24*	7**	14**

\*Season dates apply to Special Sea Duck Area only (See Description Inside). Sea ducks may only be harvested outside of the Area during the regular duck season.  
\*\*Daily bag limit for Scoters is 4 birds/day (8 in possession). Bag limit and possession limit may be in addition to regular duck bag limit for sea ducks harvested within the Special Sea Duck Area. Sea ducks harvested outside this Area count towards the regular 6 duck daily bag limit

**LEGAL SHOOTING HOURS ARE ½ HOUR BEFORE SUNRISE TO SUNSET**  
**2008-2009 SUNRISE/SUNSET TABLE**

Day	SEP.		OCT.		NOV.		DEC.		JAN		FEB.		MAR.	
	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.
1	5 30	6 33	5 58	5 45	6 30	5 02	7 02	4 40	7 22	4 50	7 09	5 23	6 35	5 54
2	5 31	6 32	5 59	5 44	6 31	5 00	7 03	4 40	7 22	4 51	7 08	5 24	6 34	5 56
3	5 32	6 30	6 00	5 42	6 32	4 59	7 04	4 39	7 22	4 52	7 07	5 25	6 32	5 57
4	5 33	6 29	6 01	5 40	6 33	4 58	7 05	4 39	7 22	4 53	7 06	5 26	6 31	5 58
5	5 34	6 27	6 02	5 39	6 34	4 57	7 06	4 39	7 22	4 53	7 05	5 27	6 29	5 59
6	5 35	6 25	6 03	5 37	6 35	4 56	7 07	4 39	7 22	4 54	7 04	5 29	6 28	6 00
7	5 36	6 24	6 04	5 36	6 36	4 55	7 08	4 39	7 22	4 55	7 03	5 30	6 26	6 01
8	5 37	6 22	6 05	5 34	6 37	4 54	7 09	4 39	7 22	4 56	7 02	5 31	6 25	6 02
9	5 38	6 21	6 06	5 33	6 38	4 53	7 10	4 39	7 22	4 57	7 01	5 32	6 23	6 03
10	5 39	6 19	6 07	5 31	6 40	4 52	7 10	4 39	7 21	4 58	7 00	5 33	6 22	6 04
11	5 39	6 17	6 07	5 30	6 41	4 51	7 11	4 39	7 21	4 59	6 59	5 34	6 20	6 05
12	5 40	6 16	6 08	5 28	6 42	4 50	7 12	4 40	7 21	5 00	6 58	5 36	6 19	6 06
13	5 41	6 14	6 09	5 27	6 43	4 50	7 13	4 40	7 21	5 01	6 57	5 37	6 17	6 07
14	5 42	6 13	6 10	5 25	6 44	4 49	7 14	4 40	7 20	5 02	6 55	5 38	6 16	6 08
15	5 43	6 11	6 11	5 24	6 45	4 48	7 14	4 40	7 20	5 03	6 54	5 39	6 14	6 09
16	5 44	6 09	6 13	5 22	6 46	4 47	7 15	4 41	7 20	5 04	6 53	5 40	6 12	6 10
17	5 45	6 08	6 14	5 21	6 47	4 46	7 16	4 41	7 19	5 06	6 52	5 41	6 11	6 11
18	5 46	6 06	6 15	5 20	6 48	4 46	7 16	4 41	7 19	5 07	6 50	5 42	6 09	6 12
19	5 47	6 05	6 16	5 18	6 50	4 45	7 17	4 42	7 18	5 08	6 49	5 44	6 08	6 13
20	5 48	6 03	6 17	5 17	6 51	4 45	7 17	4 42	7 18	5 09	6 48	5 45	6 06	6 14
21	5 49	6 01	6 18	5 15	6 52	4 44	7 18	4 43	7 17	5 10	6 46	5 46	6 05	6 15
22	5 49	6 00	6 19	5 14	6 53	4 43	7 18	4 43	7 17	5 11	6 45	5 47	6 03	6 16
23	5 50	5 58	6 20	5 13	6 54	4 43	7 19	4 44	7 16	5 12	6 44	5 48	6 01	6 17
24	5 51	5 56	6 21	5 11	6 55	4 42	7 19	4 44	7 16	5 13	6 42	5 49	6 00	6 18
25	5 52	5 55	6 22	5 10	6 56	4 42	7 20	4 45	7 15	5 15	6 41	5 50	5 58	6 19
26	5 53	5 53	6 23	5 09	6 57	4 41	7 20	4 46	7 14	5 16	6 40	5 51	5 57	6 20
27	5 54	5 52	6 24	5 08	6 58	4 41	7 20	4 47	7 13	5 17	6 38	5 52	5 55	6 21
28	5 55	5 50	6 25	5 06	6 59	4 41	7 21	4 47	7 13	5 18	6 37	5 53	5 53	6 22
29	5 56	5 48	6 26	5 05	7 00	4 40	7 21	4 47	7 12	5 19			5 52	6 23
30	5 57	5 47	6 27	5 04	7 01	4 40	7 21	4 48	7 11	5 20			5 50	6 24
31			6 28	5 03			7 21	4 49	7 10	5 22			5 49	6 25

Add one hour for Daylight Savings Time if and when in use